



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**NMFS ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL RULE AMENDING
THE CONSOLIDATED HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES FISHERY
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR MANAGEMENT OF ATLANTIC SHARK
FISHERIES**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is amending the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and implementing a range of management measures that will affect commercial and recreational shark fishermen and dealers. Recent (2005-2006) stock assessments determined sandbar and dusky sharks to be overfished with overfishing occurring and porbeagle sharks to be overfished. This current rulemaking will rebuild overfished shark stocks and stop overfishing. The final rule will publish on June 24, 2008, and final measures will be effective on July 24, 2008.

The management measures include, but are not limited to:

- revised quotas, retention limits, and authorized species for the commercial shark fishery;
- establishing a shark research fishery;
- requiring that all sharks be landed with all fins naturally attached;
- revised authorized species for the recreational shark fishery;
- complementary time/area closures for bottom longline gear that were included in Amendment 14 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management plan and are being implemented by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council;
- modified seasons and regions for the commercial shark fishery;
- updates to handling and release protocols for smalltooth sawfish;
- clarification of the definition of a 'first receiver' for shark dealers; and
- modifications to the stock assessment schedule and timing of release for the annual Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) Report.

This notice is a courtesy to Atlantic Shark Fisheries interests to keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Michael Clark, at (301) 713-2347, or Jackie Wilson at (240) 338-3936.

Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

Date 6/19/08

SIGN UP FOR ATLANTIC HMS NEWS

-- An electronic newsletter informing you of the latest HMS-related actions --



Printed on Recycled Paper

